

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0044] An effective method to attain high volume rates in real-time three-dimensional ultrasound imaging is to reduce the lateral scan extent in azimuth and/or elevation. Reducing the scan extent, however, may make it difficult to determine the anatomical orientation during scan, or post-scan review.

Anatomical landmark information is provided, with only a small impact on the volume rate by scanning along a two-dimensional plane with a greater lateral extent than a three-dimensional volume scan or by scanning over a three-dimensional volume with a lower resolution than a higher resolution sub-volume scan. The lower resolution three-dimensional image or the two-dimensional image scan provides anatomical landmark information. The higher resolution or smaller three-dimensional volume scan provides information for diagnosis of a specific region with three-dimensional imaging.